

CONFLICTING AND CONFUSING NUMBERS

Below is an excerpt from an interview conducted by Sheila Coronel on January 9, 2017 with then Sr. Supt. (now Maj. Gen.) Guillermo Eleazar, when he was chief of the Quezon City Police Department. In this interview, Eleazar said there were 263 dead from police antidrug operations in Quezon City in the first six months of the drug war. But according to figures released recently by the National Capital Region Police Office, the number of drug suspects killed by the QCPD for that period is [only 185](#).

Some parts of this interview were translated from Tagalog.

Now, out of the 3,460 [police] operations, 160 resulted in encounters. That means 160 operations where there were encounters initiated by the suspects, so that is only 4.6 percent of the total number operations. It's not true what they say that whenever there are operations, there are encounters. No, that's not true, only 160 out of 3, 460 resulted in an encounter initiated by the suspects, which resulted in the neutralization of 263. Now, I would like to add that in those 160 operations which resulted in 263 dead, there were also 80 suspects who were not killed. They're alive. Three of them were wounded. But 80 of them were alive.

On January 8, 2017, when he was chief of the Manila Police District (MPD), Sr. Supt. (now Maj. Gen.) Joel Napoleon Coronel was interviewed by Sheila Coronel. The police commander said MPD police killed 344 drug suspects in antidrug operations in the first six months of the drug war. The most recent figures released by the National Capital Region Police Office say the [number of those killed by the MPD between July and December 2016 is 152](#), less than half of what Coronel said in that interview.

Joel Coronel: We have conducted operations. We have arrested 3,227 for the past six months, July 1 to December 31. So ... we arrested a good number. And then neutralized suspects, I mean, police operations and armed encounters with drug suspects, 344 were killed.

Sheila Coronel: 344?

Joel Coronel: 344 were killed. In buy bust operations, search warrants, or warrants of arrest. All covered by our operating ... subject to our operating procedures.

Sheila Coronel: So, what do you mean killed? Buy bust?

Joel Coronel: Buy bust, we were serving warrants, conducting entrapment operations, wherein in the act of transporting, selling, administering drugs these pushers were neutralized or killed in an armed encounter. Meaning they have resisted arrest.

In an interview on August 2, 2018, Coronel provided figures of casualties from police operations for the first two years of the ant-drug campaign. He said there were definitely more than 500.

The [latest figures](#) provided by the National Capital Region Police Office say there were 401 killed in police operations in the MPD from July 2016 to May 2019, less than the figures quoted by Coronel. Below is an excerpt from that interview.

Since I assumed office from July 1, 2016 until I was transferred, 629 persons were killed in police operations, 629. If I'm not mistaken until this year, May or June 2018. It's 629 or 529, *basta* more than 500. *Marami, maraming namatay sa amin. mas marami kami kaysa Quezon City.* (There were a lot more killed in our area, more than in Quezon City.)